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we go on building up the navy. He advises the addition of four battleships this year, with all the auxiliaries for them, docks, coaling stations, colliers, supply ships, and "plenty of torpedo boats and destroyers," and the extra \$60,000,000 that all these will cost does not stagger him in the least. The navy must be made big enough to take the aggressive, sail out and "hit" hard, and destroy any fleet that may be sent against us, in the war that is to fall upon us! In other terms, the President virtually demands a navy bigger than that of any other power. That is what he undoubtedly really wishes.

The failure of the Hague Conference to reach any formal agreement as to limitation of armaments offered the President one of the greatest opportunities that ever came to a ruler or chief of state to do a great deed for the peace of the world. If he had boldly maintained his position of last year, that no more ships need be added to the navy except new ones to replace the worn-out vessels, and had offered to put himself at the head of a coalition to name an official international commission to devise some practicable method of limitation and reduction of armaments, there is not a particle of doubt that at least forty of the forty-six powers would have at once joined him, and probably all of them. The result of such a strategic move as this, following the vote of the Hague Conference that limitation of armaments is "highly desirable," would have been magical. It would have secured a thorough and exhaustive study of the whole subject, and by the time of the third Hague Conference, if not earlier, would have brought the beginning of relief from the immense burdens of competitive arming for which the masses of men and women in all countries are sighing and praying.

The Central American Court of Justice.

Central America has at last taken an important step towards permanent order and peace. The delegates to the Central American Peace Conference in Washington, in addition to signing treaties on extradition, on the founding of a Central Normal School, on finance, on the creation of a Central American Bureau, on better intercommunication, and on amity and peace, have reached an agreement for the establishment of a Central American Court of Justice. The convention provides that for ten years all controversies, of whatever nature or origin, between the five Central American Republics, which cannot be adjusted by diplomacy, shall be referred to this Court. The Court is to sit at Cartago in Costa Rica, and is to have five justices, one appointed by each of the Republics. They are to receive good salaries; to be free from arrest; and are to give their entire time and ability to the judicial service to which they are appointed. The Conference has worked out the details of the organization of the Court and its pro-

cedure, all of which will in due time be made known. We have not seen what provisions, if any, are made in the treaty for the enforcement of the decrees of the Tribunal. We imagine that no attempt has been made in this direction, or could be made in the present independent condition of the five Republics. The execution of any award made by the Court will doubtless be left to the national sense of obligation and honor in each of the countries. This will be sufficient, we think, to secure a faithful observance of the decrees of the Court, as has been the case in all the arbitrations which have taken place between the Latin-American states, as between all others.

If this treaty creating a central court of justice shall be ratified at each of the Central American capitals and a faithful effort made to carry out its provisions, it ought to put an end to the chaotic state which has so long prevailed in that region. The fact that all previous efforts have failed makes one somewhat doubtful of the success of this attempt. An additional motive this time to keep the pact will be the fact that it has been made under the suggestion and with the counsel of the United States and Mexico. The influence of these governments will certainly be continued to promote the observance of the agreement. Under these conditions we may reasonably hope that order and peace have come to stay in Central America.

It is not improbable that this court of justice may become in time the nucleus of an ultimate union of the five Republics into a United States of Central America. This would be the ideal solution of the troubles which have afflicted them. A single nation instead of five would be much better, for many reasons. The language, customs, historical traditions and legislative methods of these Republics are practically the same. If, therefore, petty local jealousies and ambitions could be laid aside, all the Central American peoples could come together under one flag and make a really strong nation, the expense of administration of which would be small, and all local interests could be managed by local governments and legislatures, as is done in our country. We commend this idea to the distinguished statesmen who have met at Washington and to those in their several countries who are seeking to bring Central America to enjoy the blessings of stable government and peace.

The Conference at Washington closed on the 20th of December. It was pervaded from beginning to end with a fine spirit of harmony and of determination to reach practical and lasting results.

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